
Date: February 24, 2022
To: Residents, Caregivers, Families, and Friends
From: Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo, President/CEO

RE: **COVID-19 Update**

OMICRON

We have been testing approximately 550 people weekly and closely monitoring the results. At this point our numbers are low enough that we feel that the threat to our residents has reasonably subsided. Just as a reminder, we were less concerned about our residents contracting the OMICRON variant than we were the Delta or other strains of COVID-19. This is because almost everyone in our community was boosted when we implemented the booster mandate last fall. Our largest concern these past two months was related to our residents becoming sick enough to have to go to the local emergency rooms and not having been able to receive the best attention and support there due to the volume of patients needing emergency services.

COVID Testing

Based on the test results of last week and similar results this week, we are suspending our weekly testing requirement for all fully vaccinated and boosted caregivers and visitors effective March 1st. Therefore, our last day of testing onsite at The Towers was yesterday, February 23rd. Going forward, anyone needing a COVID test needs to speak with his/her physician and make arrangements through a clinic off campus.

Thank you to the Murphy Medical Associates team members for once again being there for us and helping all of us stay safe!

Entry into The Towers

Effective March 1st, we are no longer requiring weekly testing of caregivers, team members or visitors. We continue to require proof of full vaccination and booster shots (as the person is eligible) and signed attestation forms. Any individual NOT fully vaccinated and boosted, must continue to show a negative COVID test administered within the prior 7 days. At home tests are not accepted at this time.

Masks

At this time, masks are still required while indoors. This is no longer due to the Governor's Executive Orders, rather it is due to the City of New Haven's Ordinance. We are following our Mayor's lead on this. As soon as the Ordinance is lifted, we will make masks optional. I will update you once we learn of any changes with the Ordinance. At that time people will need to make their own decisions on whether or not to wear masks.

COVID Vaccine 2nd Booster

Since we were one of the first sites to offer booster shots back in October, I have been exploring our options for receiving 2nd booster shots. We have been in discussions with our Walgreens partner to consider a 2nd booster clinic. Unfortunately, Walgreens has confirmed that they are only allowed to offer 2nd boosters to immune compromised individuals.

We shared that we are always considered a "high risk" population, but they cannot consider all of us eligible for 2nd boosters. So, at this time we do not have a clinic scheduled. The latest news is that 2nd boosters might be recommended for this fall depending on any new variants. We will keep monitoring this and as soon as we can have a 2nd booster clinic, we will.

However, if you feel that you may qualify for a 2nd booster, please speak with your physician and/or visit a Walgreens. I know of several individuals who have received their 2nd booster shots after having a conversation with their pharmacists.

Café

Café is now open folks. Please come down and enjoy breakfast or lunch. The Dining Room will soon open. Listen for updates on this in Dean's daily calls.

Vine Gift Shop Re-open

Our Resident Association has decided to re-open the Gift Shop on March 1st. They are using this week to get ready for the rush of shoppers next week!

Only 24 more days until SPRING!

Staying Strong, Staying Safe and Staying Connected! -- Gus